

Freedom & Slavery for Afro-Americans.
To the Editor of The Tribune:
Figures cannot be charged with fanaticism. Like the everlasting hills, they give cold, silent evidence, unmoved by the clouds and shadows of whatever present may surround them. Let us see what they say of the

VITAL STATISTICS.
of the Slaves of the South and of the Free Blacks of the North. There are one or two preliminary remarks necessary to enable us to judge of this matter: they relate to what statistics call the "disturbing influences." It is generally assumed that the rigor of the Northern winter is more destructive to the Afro-American constitution than the milder influence of the Southern climate. How much should be allowed for this? I am at a loss to say: by the late census, however, the free colored population of the Northern and Southern States have nearly an equal percentage above 35 years of age. But this small percentage is more than balanced by the facility with which colored men and women turn white at the North. The keen and practiced eyes of Southern men can instantly detect the most remote admixture of African blood; and interest and pride urge them to exercise a rigid conservatism. But here at the North, the boundary line is less distinct: the colored white has merely to change his place of abode, cut his old associates and acquaintances and he is a white.

There is not a path in literature or science in our State, in which I could not point out very distinguished colored men. Of one hundred boys who attended with me the N. Y. African Free School in 1826-7, I could name six now living—all white.

There is another "disturbing influence." You have probably heard of the great Anglo-Saxon race, the Irish people and the Berksire. You have also heard of their indomitable energy which overcomes all opposing obstacles—and races. During the last thirty years, the Northern States have been the scene of a silent struggle. The combatants have been, and are, on the one hand the great Anglo-Saxon race, and the Irish people and the Berksire (I have borrowed the name from Mr. Emerson) having in their possession "the arts of war and peace," their numbers swelled by an immigration of 23,000 per year, which has fallen into rank and file by naturalization and enfranchising laws—on the other hand, are the free blacks, taught to believe themselves naturally inferior, barely admitted to common school instruction, shut out from the temples of higher literature, and taunted with ignorance, barred from the jury bench and driven from what are called churches, yet branded with impunity. This has been no trifling conflict. The Indian race have perished in a like encounter. It has severely tried the vitality of the free blacks, whilst the slaves of the South have had no such battle to fight in their struggle for bread. This should show the percentage of longevity in favor of the slaves, other things being equal.

The Texan slave-trade, or migration, consisted chiefly of slaves under 36. The voluntary migration to Canada of the runaway slaves (about 10,000) has also consisted, chiefly of a class of persons under 36 years of age. Both of these disturbing influences would throw the balance of longevity largely in favor of the slaves of the South; for the medium ages being diminished, the extremes should be greater.

Longevity is an admitted test of relative condition. Take two classes of persons, equal in other respects, and place them in like condition, their longevity will be equal: place the same classes of persons in different condition, and that condition which yields less longevity will be the worse condition. By the census of 1840, it appears that there are of

FREE COLORED IN THE FREE STATES.
Males. Females.
Aged 36 and under 55—16.12 per cent. 15.62 per cent.
Aged 55 and under 100—6.5 per cent. 7.1 per cent.

SLAVES.
Males. Females.
Aged 36 and under 55—1.65 per cent. 1.22 per cent.
Aged 55 and under 100—4.11 per cent. 4.4 per cent.

THAT IS TO SAY:
Free colored 36 and under 100—22.68 per cent.
Slaves 36 and under 100—15.69 per cent.

Difference—7.99.
Here we find that whilst 22.68 per cent. of the free black population of the North live beyond 36 years of age, only 15.69 per cent. of the slaves of the South pass that period of life; showing a difference of 7.99 per cent. in favor of the longevity, i. e. of the condition of the free blacks. And as the only difference between these classes of population, is that the one is free and the other enslaved, it follows that slavery has actually destroyed at the very least 7.13 per cent. of the slave population. Here the black has been in no worse condition than the free blacks of the North, instead of numbering only 2,487,355 in June, 1840, they number 2,666,440, the difference, 179,085, having been made up by the system of slavery. What mockery it is for men to talk of the kindness of masters in taking care of aged slaves, when Death has relieved them of so large a share of the burden! Have not the Northern States a right, in view of this awful fact, to call upon the South to emancipate her slaves so that she may "do no murder?" If a hundred thousand dollars, sunk in the mire of repudiation, is sufficient cause for great and pious men to white about, what rush of sympathy is sufficient, rapid, what language is temperate, which pleads for the loss of a hundred thousand human lives, cut off in their prime, and blasted from all usefulness? This is no accidental result of a single census: by reference to Professor Tucker's very able work on the "Progress of Population," (Press of Hunt's Merch. Mag. N. Y.) it will be seen that in the census of 1820 and of 1830, the same percentage of the slave population, only 15 per cent. live beyond the age of 36 years, whilst the free black population has steadily improved its percentage beyond that period of life from 17 per cent. to 22.68 per cent.

Here, then, is evidence from unprejudiced witnesses, that the Free Blacks of the North are not worse off than the Slaves of the South; and that the former have gradually improved in longevity; that is, in the comforts of life, since their emancipation. As a portion of these comforts must be food and clothing, it is a fair inference that they are not worse fed, nor clothed than are the Slaves.

There is corroborative evidence in the annals of this city. Dr. Niles states that in 1824, 5 and 6, the deaths among the Free Black population of this city was 1 in 18.88. By the City Inspector's Report for 1840, I find that the deaths of the same class were only 1 in 32.16. Slavery was abolished, or terminated, in New York in 1827; and a large proportion of those who died in 1825, &c. were Slaves recently emancipated. These facts prove that within fifteen years after it became a Free State, a portion of the Free Black population of New York have improved the ratio of their mortality 13.28 per cent.—a fact without parallel in the history of any People.

It is a prevalent opinion that Emancipation has made the Free blacks deaf, dumb, blind, idiots, insane, &c. &c. The Southern Literary Messenger has quite a pretty theory on this subject, based upon certain statements, announced as facts, in the Census of 1840. An editor at Buffalo, and subsequently Dr. Jarvis of Dorchester, Mass., have demolished that theory by proving that the statements announced in the Census were not facts. Those statements made Maine a very mad house, yet they contradict themselves in the following manner. In that State, said the Census of 1840:

Towns. Total Col'd inhab. Col'd insane.
Limerick.....0 4
Lymington.....0 2
Scarboro.....0 6
Poland.....0 2
Disfield.....0 1
Calais.....0 1

NEW YORK AND HARKEN RAILROAD.
ROAD CO.—W. S. CARMAN, Secy.
Leave City Hall, 7th Street, 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 21st, 23rd, 25th, 27th, 29th, 31st, 33rd, 35th, 37th, 39th, 41st, 43rd, 45th, 47th, 49th, 51st, 53rd, 55th, 57th, 59th, 61st, 63rd, 65th, 67th, 69th, 71st, 73rd, 75th, 77th, 79th, 81st, 83rd, 85th, 87th, 89th, 91st, 93rd, 95th, 97th, 99th, 101st, 103rd, 105th, 107th, 109th, 111th, 113th, 115th, 117th, 119th, 121st, 123rd, 125th, 127th, 129th, 131st, 133rd, 135th, 137th, 139th, 141st, 143rd, 145th, 147th, 149th, 151st, 153rd, 155th, 157th, 159th, 161st, 163rd, 165th, 167th, 169th, 171st, 173rd, 175th, 177th, 179th, 181st, 183rd, 185th, 187th, 189th, 191st, 193rd, 195th, 197th, 199th, 201st, 203rd, 205th, 207th, 209th, 211st, 213th, 215th, 217th, 219th, 221st, 223rd, 225th, 227th, 229th, 231st, 233rd, 235th, 237th, 239th, 241st, 243rd, 245th, 247th, 249th, 251st, 253rd, 255th, 257th, 259th, 261st, 263rd, 265th, 267th, 269th, 271st, 273rd, 275th, 277th, 279th, 281st, 283rd, 285th, 287th, 289th, 291st, 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